

Message Text

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67

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 MC-02 ACDA-10 /095 W
----- 127770

R 121500Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4400

INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY MASERU

USUN NEW YORK 968

UNCLAS CAPE TOWN 0171

E.O.11652:N/A

TAGS :PFOR,PINS,MOPS,SF,RH

SUBJ :RHODESIAN ANNOUNCES PULL-BACK OF SA POLICE

REF :(A) CAPE TOWN 159;(B) CAPE TOWN 925,DEC 27,1974

1. IN STATEMENT ISSUED SALISBURY FEBRUARY 11, RHODESIAN GOVT ANNOUNCED THAT 'SOME ELEMENTS' OF SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE (SAP) HAVE BEGUN TO WITHDRAW FROM 'CERTAIN FORWARD POSITIONS' ON ZAMBEZI RIVER.

STATEMENT SAID PULL-BACK WAS PART OF THE DE-ESCALATION ASSOCIATED WITH THE DETENTE EXERCISE AND IT FOLLOWS UNDERTAKINGS GIVEN BY THE ZAMBIAN GOVT. IN REGARD TO TERRORIST INFILTRATION ACROSS THE ZAMBEZI RIVER INTO RHODESIA.' NO MENTION MADE OF ANY WITHDRAWAL OF SAP UNITS FROM RHODESIA ITSELF.

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2. RHODESIAN ANNOUNCEMENT FOLLOWS FEBRUARY 10 PRESS COMMENTS BY UNNAMED AFRICAN NATIONAL COUNCIL (ANC) SPOKESMAN WHO ATTENDED MEETING WITH SOUTH AFRICAN FOREIGN MINISTER MULLER (REF A). ANC REPORTEDLY WAS TOLD BY MULLER THAT REMOVAL OF SAP UNITS BEGAN WHEN CEASE-FIRE DECLARED, BUT WAS HALTED AFTER DECEMBER KILLING OF FOUR SOUTH AFRICAN POLICEMEN(REF B). SPOKESMAN ALSO SAID MULLER INDICATED THAT POLICE WERE NOT RPT NOT BEING REPLACED.

3. COMMENT: RHODESIAN STATEMENT IS FIRST OFFICIAL PUBLIC NOTICE THAT SAG IS BEGINNING TO COMPLY WITH ANC DEMAND THAT SA POLICE BE REMOVED FROM RHODESIA. ALTHOUGH STATEMENT DOES NOT GO AS FAR AS COMMENTS ALLEGEDLY MADE BY MULLER TO ANC, IT IS INDICATION THAT AT LEAST THIS CONTENTIOUS ISSUE IS ON WAY TO BEING REMOVED AS HINDERANCE TO COMMENCEMENT OF CONSTITUTIONAL DISCUSSIONS. SAG IS CLEARLY ANXIOUS TO REMOVE ITS POLICE BUT CANNOT ALLOW ITSELF TO BE SEEN AS LEAVING RHODESIANS IN LURCH. CONTINUED WITHDRAWAL LIKELY TO DEPEND UPON FAIRLY CLOSE ADHERENCE TO CEASE-FIRE BY GUERRILLA FORCES.

HURD

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